

cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time . . ."

Though Lincoln's words did not portend the blending of home and abroad in the manner that it has presented itself, his sentiment is as relevant now as it was then. Our public safety officers allow us the best hope of destroying the dangers we now see before us. Finding a fitting testament to their bravery is the obligation of this great Nation.

Mr. GILMAN, Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res 243, respectfully calling on the President to award and present, in the name of Congress, a public safety officer Medal of Valor to those public safety officers who were killed in the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. This resolution also requests that the President honor other select public safety officers who displayed valor and courage above and beyond the call of duty on September 11th and in the subsequent rescue and recovery efforts that followed the terrorist attacks on our Nation.

On that horrible day in September, a day of infamy, our Nation witnessed the best and the worst of humanity. The despicable and cowardly terrorist acts were valiantly countered with the incredible heroism and courage of our firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency personnel, and our fellow citizens.

It is incumbent upon our Nation to honor these heroes, be they here or departed. Bestowing the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor on these deserving men and women. It is a fitting tribute to their memory and their contribution to our Nation's freedom. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this important measure.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 243.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FEDERAL LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE AMENDMENTS ACT

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2559) to amend chapter 90 of title 5, United States Code, relating to Federal long-term care insurance.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2559

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEFINITION OF AN ANNUITANT.

Paragraph (2) of section 9001 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(2) ANNUITANT.—The term 'annuitant' means—

"(A) any individual who would satisfy the requirements of paragraph (3) of section 8901 if, for purposes of such paragraph, the term 'employee' were considered to have the meaning given to it under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

"(B) any individual who—

"(i) satisfies all requirements for title to an annuity under subchapter III of chapter 83, chapter 84, or any other retirement system for employees of the Government (whether based on the service of such individual or otherwise), and files application therefor;

"(ii) is at least 18 years of age; and

"(iii) would not (but for this subparagraph) otherwise satisfy the requirements of this paragraph."

SEC. 2. PREEMPTION.

Section 9005 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a) CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS.—" before "The"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) PREMIUMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No tax, fee, or other monetary payment may be imposed or collected, directly or indirectly, by any State, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or by any political subdivision or other governmental authority thereof, on, or with respect to, any premium paid for an insurance policy under this chapter.

"(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to exempt any company or other entity issuing a policy of insurance under this chapter from the imposition, payment, or collection of a tax, fee, or other monetary payment on the net income or profit accruing to or realized by such entity from business conducted under this chapter, if that tax, fee, or payment is applicable to a broad range of business activity."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 1002 of the Long-Term Care Security Act (Public Law 106-265; 114 Stat. 762).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 2559.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2559. Last year, Congress enacted the Long-Term Care Security Act. That bill established a program to permit the Federal Government to offer private long-term care insurance at a group discount as an employment benefit. Beginning in October of 2002, Federal employees, civilian retirees and active and retired members of the military will be eligible to purchase long-term care insurance through this new program.

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H.R. 2559 will improve that program. This bill expands the population served by the Federal Government's long-term care program.

Mr. Speaker, many individuals leave Federal employment before they are entitled to an immediate annuity, even though they worked long enough to earn retirement at a later date. Currently they are not eligible to participate in the long-term care insurance program. H.R. 2559 will rectify this situation. Such individuals will be eligible to buy long-term care insurance through the program when they file for their deferred annuity.

In order to hold down premium costs, the bill also exempts policies issued under the program from premium taxes imposed by States, local governments, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Similar exemptions already exist for premiums paid under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program.

Exempting premiums from these taxes will reduce premiums in two ways. First, of course, the cost of long-term care insurance will be lower simply because the premiums will not have to build in the amount of the taxes. Second, the carriers will not have to incur the cost of complying with the wide array of premium tax laws that differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Lower costs mean lower premiums. The Office of Personnel Management estimates that the exemption will shave long-term care premiums by 2.5 percent. This is important because potential consumers of long-term care insurance are very sensitive to price.

I would also note, Mr. Speaker, that the Long-Term Care Security Act intends that the Office of Personnel Management will perform many of the consumer protection functions traditionally conducted by State insurance commissioners. These changes will be effective as if enacted in the Long-Term Care Security Act and will substantially improve the Federal Government's long-term care insurance program.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2559.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 2559. It will improve the Federal long-term care insurance program, which was created last year by the Long-Term Care Security Act.

Last session, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) worked in a bipartisan way to bring a long-term care insurance program to Federal employees.

The Long-Term Care Security Act authorizes the Office of Personnel Management to purchase group long-term insurance policies from qualified private sector contractors, thereby making long-term care insurance available to Federal employees, Federal retirees, and their family members. The corrections to the Long-Term Care Security Act proposed in H.R. 2559 will continue to ensure that the best possible program is being designed for Federal employees.

Under the Long-Term Care Corrections Act, all Federal employees entitled to an annuity under the Federal Retirement System will be eligible to participate in the long-term care program, as was intended when the Long-Term Care Security Act was enacted.

Additionally, as in the case with the health and life insurance policies issued through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program, long-term care insurance policies issued through the Federal long-term care program would be exempt from premium taxes imposed by States and local governments, making premiums competitive for Federal employees. Obviously, this program improves substantially the health benefits program for Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to rise to reflect the broad-based support that this provision has within the Congress. This is not going to cost the American taxpayer any money, but it will provide some personal security for the great many Federal employees who need long-term care insurance.

This was a good idea. There were any number of Members, particularly from the Washington metropolitan area, who pushed it. It is an important benefit, and it is one that all of the Federal workers throughout the country are going to appreciate. And particularly at this time when they are working under such fear and anxiety, it is

the appropriate thing to do. I know it will be much appreciated.

So I strongly support this measure. I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia and the gentleman from Illinois for bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I simply reiterate my strong support for this excellent legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2559 has strong bipartisan support. The Office of Personnel Management and long-term care insurers also support it. It will substantially improve the Federal Government's long-term care insurance program, and I urge all Members to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2559.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING BARRY BONDS FOR RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 266) congratulating Barry Bonds on his spectacular, record-breaking season for the San Francisco Giants and Major League Baseball.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 266

Whereas Barry Bonds has brought distinction to Major League Baseball and excellence to the San Francisco Giants, following in the baseball footsteps of his father, Bobby Bonds, and his godfather, Willie Mays;

Whereas Barry Bonds has had an outstanding career that so far includes 3 Most Valuable Player awards, 10 All-Star Game appearances, 8 Rawlings Gold Glove awards, and the distinction of being named Player of the Decade for the 1990s by the Sporting News;

Whereas in 2001 Barry Bonds had one of the greatest seasons in Major League Baseball history, achieving 73 home runs, a slugging average of .863, and an on-base percentage of .515;

Whereas Barry Bonds has established himself as the most prolific single-season home run hitter in Major League Baseball history, hitting his 73rd home run on October 7, 2001, eclipsing the previous record of 70 home runs set by Mark McGwire in 1998;

Whereas Barry Bonds has attained the rank of 7th place on the all-time Major League Baseball home run list with 567;

Whereas Barry Bonds drove in 136 runs to set a Giants franchise record for runs batted in by a left fielder, and has recorded at least 100 RBI's in each of 10 different seasons;

Whereas of Bonds' 73 home runs, 24 gave San Francisco the lead and 7 tied the game;

Whereas Barry Bonds also hit the 500th home run of his career during the 2001 season, a 2-run game-winning home run which landed in the waters of McCovey Cove, San Francisco;

Whereas Barry Bonds, at age 37, is the oldest player in Major League Baseball history to hit more than 50, 60, and 70 home runs in a single season;

Whereas Barry Bonds has recorded 484 stolen bases in his career, becoming the only Major League Baseball player to both hit more than 400 home runs and steal more than 400 bases;

Whereas Barry Bonds' 233 stolen bases achieved while playing for San Francisco place him 6th on the Giants franchise list behind his father, Bobby, who is 5th with 263 stolen bases;

Whereas Barry Bonds has proven himself to be an active leader not only in the Giants clubhouse but also in the community, donating approximately \$100,000 to the September 11th Fund to aid the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania; and

Whereas Barry Bonds has also devoted his time and money to support the Link & Learn Program of the United Way, and has been an active participant in numerous other San Francisco Bay area community efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Barry Bonds on his spectacular record-breaking season in 2001 and outstanding career in Major League Baseball, wishes him continued success in the seasons to come, and thanks him for his contributions to baseball and to his community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 266.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my distinguished colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the author of this resolution; and the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), who sponsored a similar resolution, House